

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A method for promoting *ex vivo* expansion of hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells, said method comprising culturing hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells with a composition comprising: (a) purified midkine (MK) protein or purified pleiotrophin (PTN) protein; and (b) one or more other purified hematopoietic growth factors selected from the group consisting of interleukin-3 (IL-3), interleukin-6 (IL-6), granulocyte colony stimulating-factor (G-CSF), granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), stem cell factor (SCF), and erythropoietin (EPO).

22. (Currently amended) A method for promoting *ex vivo* expansion of hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells, said method comprising culturing hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells with a composition comprising: (a) purified midkine (MK) protein; and (b) one or more other purified hematopoietic growth factors selected from the group consisting of interleukin-3 (IL-3), interleukin-6 (IL-6), granulocyte colony stimulating-factor (G-CSF), granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), stem cell factor (SCF), and erythropoietin (EPO).

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells are obtained from bone marrow, peripheral blood, or umbilical cord blood.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the hematopoietic stem cells are colony-forming units-mix (CFU-mix).

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[25]]~~ 21, wherein the other purified hematopoietic growth factors are IL-3, IL-6, SCF, and EPO.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells are obtained from bone marrow, peripheral blood, or umbilical cord blood.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the hematopoietic stem cells are colony-forming units-mix (CFU-mix).

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 22, wherein the other purified hematopoietic growth factors are IL-3, IL-6, SCF, and EPO.